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Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 01926 241305 Z

47
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

SCS-03 SCA-01 PPT-02 JUSE-00 OMB-01 INRE-00 IGA-02

AID-20 TRSE-00 IO-12 RSR-01 /119 W
---------- 012758
P R 241220 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2489
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: CPRS, SOCI, AF
SUBJECT: COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH AND EXPULSION OF AMCITS

REF: (A) STATE 054082; (B) KABUL 1686; (C) KABUL 1681

1. DR. AND MRS. CHRISTY WILSON DEPARTED KABUL BY AIR MARCH 24 FOR TEHRAN AND ONWARD TO US, THUS MEETING DEADLINE ESTABLISHED BY MINISTER OF INTERIOR (REF C). MR. AND MRS. EUGENE GLASSMAN DEPARTED FOR TEHRAN MARCH 22. ONLY OTHER US CITIZEN ASKED TO LEAVE IS MISS CHARLOTTE SELF, A NURSE WITH THE NOOR EYE INSTITUTE WHO IS CURRENTLY IN THE US FOR SEVERAL MONTHS ON " HOME LEAVE."

2. NO CLARIFICATION FORTHCOMING ON GLASSMAN' S INCLUSION IN LIST. HOWEVER, GLASSMANS LEFT AMICABLY WITHOUT ATTEMPTING CONTEST RGA DECISION.

3. IN FAREWELL CALL ON AMBASSADOR MARCH 22, DR. WILSON EX- PRESSED DEEPEST GRATITUDE FOR EMBASSY' S ADVICE, ASSISTANCE, AND INFORMAL " GOOD OFFICES" WITH RGA DURING PAST WEEKS. HE, OF COURSE, IS SADDENED BY THIS UNPLEASANT TERMINATION OF HIS LONG (22 YEARS) MINISTRY IN AFGHANISTAN, BUT DID NOT ATTEMPT
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OPPOSE RGA ACTION EXCEPT BY DELAYING DEPARTURE TO LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT. OUR CONTACTS WITH WILSON AND CCC BOARD CONTINUE TO BE UNANIMOUSLY FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE, AS THEY HAVE BEEN THROUGHOUT CRISIS. HOWEVER, WE WOULD ANTICIPATE PUBLIC STANCE OF MARTYRDOM BY WILSON IN US, AND WE CANNOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY HIS MAKING EFFORT BLAME CHURCH' S PROBLEMS ON ALLEGEDLY INSUFFICIENT USG SUPPORT RATHER THAN HIS AND OTHERS' ILLEGAL MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES. (AS DEPT AWARE FROM PREVIOUS REPORTS, WE BELIEVE WE HAVE PUSHED LIMITS OF PROPER DIPLOMATIC RE-PRESENTATIONS, AS SPECIFICALLY ACKNOWLEDGED BY WILSON AND CCC BOARD.)

5. CHURCH BOARD REPRESENTATIVES HAVE HAD PRODUCTIVE INITIAL NEGOTIATING SESSION WITH MAYOR, AND OTHERS ARE SCHEDULED. SO LONG AS PARTIES CONTINUE NEGOTIATING IN GOOD FAITH, WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE FURTHER RGA ACTIONS AGAINST CHURCH PROPERTY. NO MORE NAMES FOR EXPULSION HAVE BEEN PRESENTED, AND NOW SEEMS LESS LIKELY THEY WILL BE FORTHCOMING IF RPT IF CHURCH NEGOTIATIONS PROCEED TO SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION. WILSON' S DEPARTURE UNDOUBTEDLY
IMPROVES THAT PROSPECT. ALL SIGNALS SUGGEST THAT RGA ANXIOUS KEEP NOOR AND MAP PROGRAMS INTACT, IF POSSIBLE.

6. DEPT HAS ALL NECESSARY BACKGROUND TO RESPOND TO QUERIES FROM CONGRESS AND PUBLIC. WE SUGGEST YOU STRESS (A) SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF RGA TO DETERMINE WHAT FOREIGNERS RESIDE HERE (FYI: WILSON RETURNED WITHOUT VISA DURING AUTUMN '72, AND WAS NEVER GIVEN OFFICIALS PERMISSION REMAIN); (B) AND OVERT FORM OF MIS-SIONARY ACTIVITY IS CLEARLY PROHIBITED HERE UNDER AFGHAN CON-STITUTION AND LAW (FYI: UNKNOWN TO SOME MEMBERS OF CHURCH BOARD, SEMI- CLANDESTINE BIBLE CLASSES FOR AFGHAN ADULTS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR AFGHAN CHILDREN HAVE BEEN RE-GULARLY HELD ON CHURCH PREMISES; ALSO ONE OF NOOR PHYSICIANS (DR. HOWARD HARPER, A NEW ZEALAND CITIZEN) HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO PURCHASE PROPERTY UNDER NOOR' S NAME (BUT WITHOUT NOOR' S KNOWLEDGE OR APPROVAL) FOR EVENTUAL USE AS SITE FOR AN AFGHAN CHRISTIAN CHURCH.); (C) GOVERNMENT HAS ASSURED EMBASSY IT RECOGNIZES RIGHT OF FOREIGN CHRISTIANS TO HAVE SATISFACTORY PREMISES FOR WORSHIP (FYI: NO RPT NO INTERFERENCE WITH WORSHIP SERVICES HERE NOW AGAIN BEING HELD IN FORMER CCC PREMISES, WITH CATHOLIC SERVICES IN ITALIANEMBASSY CHAPEL, NOR WITH VARIOUS OTHER CHRISTIAN GROUPS WORSHIPING REGULARLY IN PRIVATE HOMES); (D) LEGAL TITLE TO PROPERTY NEVER RE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GULARIZED, AND REMAINS CLOUDY; (E) NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN RGA AND CCC BOARD IN PROGREES, WITH BOTH SIDES APPARENTLY SEEKING SATISFACTORY SOLUTION (FYI: EMBASSY FOLLOWING NEGOTIATIONS CLOSELY BEHIND SCENES AND OFFERING INFORMAL ADVICE AS REQUESTED).

DECONTROL MARCH 31, 1974. NEUMANN

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Executive Order: n/a
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